

## SEATTLE DISTRICT

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### **SBA Seattle District Invites Small Businesses to Share Their Story for National Small Business Week 2020**

#### **Award Nominations Sought from Across Washington and northern Idaho**

**SEATTLE** –The U.S. Small Business Administration Seattle District Office is now accepting nominations for its 2020 National Small Business Week Awards, including the Washington Small Business Person of the Year.

For more than 50 years, [National Small Business Week](#) has celebrated the achievements of America's small businesses and the contributions they make to their local communities, and to the nation's economy. National Small Business Week will be May 3-9, 2020.

The SBA Seattle District Office is accepting nominations for the following awards:

- **Washington Small Business Person of the Year** - *state winner is finalist for National Small Business Person of the Year*
- **Exporter of the Year**
- **8(a) Graduate of the Year** - *the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program is a nine-year federal government contracting certification and program for small business*
- **Rising Startup of the Year** – *small business that has shown early promise with less than three years of operation*
- **Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year**
- **Rural Small Business of the Year**
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year** – *small business owner under 35 years of age*
- **Small Business Champion of the Year** – *an individual who has gone above and beyond to advocate for small business(es) in their community*

To qualify for most SBA National Small Business Week Award categories, a business needs to have been in business for at least three years; received some type of SBA or SBA resource partner assistance – such as SCORE counseling or an SBA Guaranteed Loan; and achieved consistent growth in annual revenue and staff over the past three years.

“Entrepreneurs and small business owners are one of our region’s greatest assets. They’re the innovators, job creators and community leaders who embrace challenges and problem-solving with enthusiasm,” SBA Pacific Northwest Regional Administrator Jeremy Field said. “The National Small Business Week Awards are an opportunity to shine a spotlight on local small businesses and share their inspiring stories.”

Past winners have included Simple Box Storage Owner Ross Black in Lynden, Washington; Dan the Sausage Man Owner Danny House in Burien, Washington; and RHD Enterprises CEO Rozanne Garman in Lacey, Washington.

National SBA Awards given in celebration of National Small Business Week include the following:

- **Small Business Person of the Year** – *winner is selected from Small Business of the Year winners from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.*
- **Small Business Exporter of the Year** – *winner is selected from 10 regional winners*
- **Phoenix Awards for Disaster Recovery**
  - Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery
  - Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery, Public Official
  - Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery, Volunteer
- **Federal Procurement Awards**
  - Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year
  - Small Business Subcontractor of the Year
  - Dwight D. Eisenhower Awards for Excellence – *for large prime contractors who use small businesses as suppliers and contractors*
  - 8(a) Graduate of the Year – *winner is selected from 10 regional winners*
- **Jody C. Raskind Lender of the Year**
- **Small Business Investment Company of the Year**
- **Awards to SBA Resource Partners**
  - Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Excellence and Innovation Center Award
  - Women's Business Center of Excellence Award
  - Veterans Business Outreach Center Excellence in Service Award

**The SBA Seattle District recommends nominations are submitted by the Dec. 20, 2019 early bird deadline.** The final deadline for nominations is 12 p.m. PT, Jan. 7, 2020.

All nomination packages must be hand delivered or mailed to the SBA Seattle District Office at 2401 Fourth Avenue, Suite 450, Seattle, WA 98121.

Email submissions of SBA Awards forms will not be accepted as they contain personally identifiable information (PII).

Instructions and forms can be found in the 2020 Seattle District Office Nomination Guidelines located at [tinyurl.com/2020-WA-Awards](https://tinyurl.com/2020-WA-Awards).

Nominators are encouraged to attend a 30-minute webinar to learn how to submit a winning National Small Business Week nomination on [Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 8 to 8:30 a.m.](#) or on [Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 12 to 12:30 p.m.](#)

Nominators can register their interest in an award online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/86QTTKP](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/86QTTKP).

For more information about SBA awards, contact Desiree Albrecht at [desiree.albrecht@sba.gov](mailto:desiree.albrecht@sba.gov) or 206-553-2664.

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**About the U.S. Small Business Administration**

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). The **Seattle District Office** serves Washington state and northern Idaho with office locations in Seattle and Spokane.